

Message Text

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44

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 USIA-06 /016 W

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R 140901Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1688

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL CG

SUBJECT: US-AFRICAN SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP

REF: LAGOS 9928, OCT 25, 1974

1. REFTEL INDICATED THAT AMBASSADOR JOSEPH PALMER UNABLE VISIT KINSHASA ON BEHALF SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL BUT ASKED EMBASSY CONVEY TO GOZ KEEN INTEREST OF MAYOR COLEMAN YOUNG OF DETROIT FOR KINSHASA AFFILIATION. EMBASSY EFFORTS LAST YEAR WERE UNAVAILING AND AMB PALMER EVENTUALLY SUGGESTED SUBJECT BE PURSUED THROUGH ZAIRE EMBASSY WASHINGTON.

2. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH N'DJOKU EY' OBABA, URBAN COMMISSIONER FOR KINSHASA, I ASCERTAINED THAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN POSSIBILITY OF KINSHASA-DETROIT RELATIONSHIP AND THAT HE HAD VAGUE RECOLLECTION OF HAVING SEEN LETTER ON SUBJECT. HE TOLD ME HE HAD REFERRED ENTIRE MATTER TO MINISTER FOR POLITICAL COORDINATION. THUS WHEN ON MARCH 11 I MET WITH ENGULU I SUGGESTED THAT TWIN CITY PROGRAM WOULD BE GOOD THING. HE AT FIRST AGREED AND THEN SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO LOOK CAREFULLY AT DETAILS, WHICH I UNDERSTOOD TO MEAN THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO TALK WITH PRESIDENT. WHEN I THEN TOLD HIM OF EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH N'DJOKU AND REPORT THAT FILE HAD BEEN FORWARDED TO HIM, HE SAID HE DID NOT HAVE

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FILE BUT THAT HE WOULD ASK N'DJOKU WHERE MATTER STOOD.

3. IT SEEMS TO ME THIS PROJECT HAS SOME USEFUL
POSSIBILITIES AND I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF DEPT WOULD
PASS ABOVE TO SISTER CITIES INC. AND ASK THEM WHERE
THEY THINK MATTERS STAND. IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY
HELPFUL TO ME TO HAVE LETTER FROM MAYOR YOUNG WHICH
I COULD USE TO FOLLOW UP WITH ENGULU AND N'KJOKU. I
SUSPECT THAT VISIT FROM SOMEONE REPRESENTING MAYOR YOUNG
WOULD BE REQUIRED AT SOME POINT, AT LEAST THAT HAS
PROVEN TO BE NECESSARY IN CASE OF LUSAKA-KINSHASA LINK
UP WHICH I AM TOLD HAS TAKEN ALMOST FIVE YEARS TO NEGOTIATE.
HINTON

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Message Attributes

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